

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DOCKET NUMBER	ANTICIPATED CLASSIFICATION OF THIS APPLICATION:		PRIOR APPLICATION	
	CLASS	SUBCLASS	EXAMINER	ART UNIT
10873.0813USD1			Mark Osborne Budd	2834

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

"Express Mail" mailing label number: EV322883765US

Date of Deposit: September 3, 2003

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Mail Stop Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By:

Name: Teresa Anderson

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/979,374 filed on November 16, 2001.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a

reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.




Dated: September 3, 2003

DPM:mmm


Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
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(612) 332-5300

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 10873.0813USD1	Application Number: filed here within
	Applicant: NAKATANI et al.	
	Filing Date: filed here within	Group Art Unit: n/a

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
	US 6,300,686	Oct. 2001	HIRANO et al.				
	US 6,038,133	March 2000	NAKATANI et al.				
	US 5,484,647	Jan. 1996	NAKATANI et al.				
	US 5,969,461	Oct. 1999	Anderson et al.				
	US 6,310,421	Oct. 2001	Morishima				
	US 6,467,139	Oct. 2002	Tanaka				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	JP 11-168112	June 1999	Japan				
	JP 11-220262	Aug. 1999	Japan				
	JP 11-26642	Jan. 1999	Japan				
	JP 2-31437	Feb. 1990	Japan				
	JP 9-260432	Oct. 1997	Japan				
	JP 2-186662	July 1990	Japan				
	JP 5-55303	March 1993	Japan				
	JP 11-67979	March 1999	Japan				
	JP 7-14764	June 1995	Japan				
	JP 6-268345	Sept. 1994	Japan				
	EP 0 568 930 A2	Nov. 1993	EPO				
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)							

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED	 23552 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.		